(c) whether telephone connections sanctioned after February 1991 have been installed;

(d) if so, the reasons for not releasing the connections which were sanctioned earlier;

(e) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) During the period, 13 telephone connections were sanctioned against VIP quota in Surat.

(b) Out of this, 10 telephone connections have been provided and 3 sanctions are pending

(c) After February 1991, 173 telephone connections were sanctioned out fo which 124 connections have been provided and 49 are pending installation

(d) The 3 connections referred to in (b) above, could not be provided due to technical non-feasibility

(e) No, Sir

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Local Calls Facility

1939. SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision of local telephone calls between two cities having the air distance upto 20 kms;

(b) the number of cities in the country which are yet to be provided with this facility;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend this facility between Patna and Hajipur; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir Calls beyond the local area of a telephone exchange system are charged on the basis of long distance tariff. However, presently the charges for long distance calls between two exchanges in different local areas but within 20 Kms. of each other is the same as per a local call.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) A revised charging plan prescribing a special tariff for such peripheral exchange systems is under consideration. The charges for calls between Patna & Hajipur will be changed over to the new tariff when the charging plan is finalised.

[*English*]

Local Call Facility in Bombay Region

1940 SHRI RAM KAPSE Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether the President, the Bhiwandi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bhiwandi, district Thane (Maharashtra) had requested for providing local call facility within the entire Bombay metropolitan region;

(b) if so, action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P V RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The request for including towns like Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Ulhasnagar under one local area of Bombay Telephone was examined in the light of the existing guidelines regarding demarcation of local areas Exchanges falling within the Municipal limits fo one Municipality are generally within the local area of a system However there are certain exceptions due to technical and historic reasons

The local area of Bhiwandi is under the jurisdiction of Bhiwandi municipality whereas Ulhasnagar comes under Kalyan Telephone System These areas are, therefor,e under different local areas and as such could not be given local call facilities They are covered under short distance charging areas

(c) In view of existing policy and technical and financial constraints it is not possible to extend the local area of Bombay telephone system so as to include Bhiwandi, Kalyan/Ulhasnagar/New Bombay

[*Translation*]

Theft of Electricity in Delhi

1941 DR P R GANGWAR
SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn regarding theft of electricity in Delhi,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) (a) to (c) Theft of energy is a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 DESU being aware of the problem has intesified its drive against the theft of power and other violations of use of electricity During the period April-December, 1991, 36957 cases were checked and 22783 cases of theft of power were detocted 541 FIRs were loadged with the police for prosecution during this period

[*English*]

Anti-Sea Erosion Plan in Karnataka

1942 SHRI H D DEVEGOWDA Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have submitted any master plan for anti-sea erosion works for clearance by Central Water Commission,

(b) if so, the estimated amount of the plan, and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) and (b) The Master Plan on Coastal erosion in Karnataka estimated to cost Rs 145 crores and an outline project report on the priority works to protect the more severely affected coastal reaches against erosion estimated to cost Rs 40 crores were presented and discussed in the 17th meeting of the Beach Erosion Board held at Mangalore in June, 1989 Subsequently, the State Govt submitted another project proposal estimated to cost Rs 15 crores in Jun, 1991 This has been examinec and the state has, interalia, been advised tc